

# THE GATEWAY

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## \$8.4 million from gov't may allow U of A to balance budget

KRISTINE OWRAM  
News Editor

The U of A may be able to balance this year's budget after all, thanks to an additional \$8.4 million for maintenance and operations from the provincial government.

When Alberta Learning released their budget in April 2003, an increase in base operation grants of two per cent for all Alberta postsecondary institutions was announced, adding up to \$22 million for the whole province. As this announcement was part of the ministry's three-year budget plan, the funding will likely, although not definitely, continue until 2005. The money was designed to meet inflationary pressures, but increasing utility costs and salary demands meant the U of A was forced to budget for a deficit of approximately \$7.8 million this year regardless.

In June, the government promised an additional one-time increase of 2.75 per cent for the maintenance and operations of the province's postsecondary institutions.

According to Phillip Stack, director of resource planning, this increase will likely offset the University's budgeted deficit.

"Assuming that every other assumption in our budget is correct in terms of revenues and expenditures, this one-time increase means we're going to balance our budget," he explained. "This is a critical announcement that will provide vital funding for the University."

The increase will also add up to approximately \$5.7 million for the University of Calgary, and, according to U of C Vice-President (External Relations) Roman Cooney, the money

will go towards offsetting their deficit as well.

"We made a decision last year to have a two-year deficit budget so we could invest money into student aid, reducing classroom sizes, and protecting the library," he said. "My guess is that this money will go into protecting and improving the quality of both research and teaching."

**"All of Alberta's postsecondary institutions needed more money for utilities ... We wanted to give them the flexibility to set their own priorities. The institutions were thrilled to receive the money, and personally thought the minister."**

KATRINA BLUTCHEN,  
SPOKESPERSON,  
ALBERTA LEARNING

According to Alberta Learning spokesperson Katrina Blutchen, the government realized this money was badly needed. "All of Alberta's postsecondary institutions needed more money for utilities, and the cost of hiring tradespeople is a bit higher now," she said. "We wanted to give them the flexibility to set their own priorities. The institutions were thrilled to receive the money, and personally thanked the minister."

PLEASE SEE FUNDING • PAGE 4



CORY WANLESS

**RIGHT BACK AT YA BUDDY!** Bear Clint Luidtke(15) stands between Pronghorns.

## U of A offers ASL course for language credit

SHERISSE SZYMCAK  
News Writer

Beginning this September, students at the U of A can experience a new language and culture—and it's for credit.

The new course in American Sign Language (ASL) makes the University of Alberta the only university in Canada to have a program of its kind; that is, recognizing ASL as a language other than English. The department of modern languages and cultural studies is offering ASL 111 this term and ASL 112 next term, which are to be followed by ASL 211 and ASL 212 next school year.

Besides arts students now being able to use ASL to fulfill their language other than English (LOE) requirement, students can also use it as a career skill. "I'm probably going to go into speech pathology after I get my degree," said Jenna Smith, one of the first students to be experiencing the new course. "The class is going to be challenging but extremely interesting as well."

Although there will be an interpreter in class occasionally, the majority of the class will be taught by Randy Drzewina, who is deaf. Maggie Smith, a student in ASL 111, is excited about the new program.

"I'm in education and I wanted it as a backup. I thought it was interesting and I wanted to work with the deaf students, and I have friends that are deaf. I have no prior knowledge of it and I've always wanted to take it. It's going to be interesting because it's immersion and there is no talking in the classroom."

PLEASE SEE ASL • PAGE 3



SHAWN BENBOW

**AN ACE UP HIS SLEEVE** Darse Billings, creator of the poker-playing program.

## U of A student's poker-playing computer program a sure bet for success

COSANNA PRESTON  
Associate News Editor

Taking a gamble on a master's degree in poker has proved to be a windfall for the PhD student putting his finishing touches on the world's best poker-playing computer program.

Darse Billings first came up with the idea for the program when he came to the University of Alberta from the University of Calgary to complete his master's in poker in 1991.

Though completing a master's in poker may sound odd at first, from the point of view of Billings' background in computing science, it made perfect sense.

"[Poker is] fun, which is not to be underestimated, and it has a lot of

interesting fundamental issues," said Billings.

"There were not a lot of people doing it, which means that I could be at the frontier of the research in a week," he added. "It's one of the advantages of being in computing science."

**"[Poker is] fun, which is not to be underestimated, and it has a lot of interesting fundamental issues."**

DARSE BILLINGS,  
COMPUTING SCIENCE PHD STUDENT

Billings mapped out some of the basic framework and tactics to build a

competitive poker program during his master's, but he left the U of A after the completion of his degree. Unsure of what he wanted to do next, Billings became a professional poker player for a few years to fine-tune his understanding of the skills and strategies of the game.

It was not until 1999 and after a lot of convincing from the computing science department that Billings agreed to return to the U of A as a full-time PhD student, ready to create the best poker-playing program in the world.

The poker program has been in development since 1991, and its creators hope that it will finally be ready to challenge the world's best players in under a year.

PLEASE SEE POKER • PAGE 3



**15** Mike Cornie is locked out of Oilers training camp. Mike Winters spoofs the Edmonton-born heir to the Brick fortune with a comic in today's sports section.

### Inside

**News Opinion** 1-4  
**ASL** 5-7  
**Sports** 9-13  
**Features** 14-15  
**Comics** 16-18  
**Classifieds** 19 20

### Outside

**Tuesday** Freakin' Snow! Jo and Blo NoMo: High 6, Low 1  
**Wednesday** Blasted rain, BFF: Matt Damon becomes shoulder to cry on: High 12, Low 2  
**Thursday** Sun and cloud, J releases album of weepy latin love ballads: High 16, Low 3  
**Friday** Cloud and sun, we'll always have Gigi: High 20, Low 4  
Source: Environment Canada



### From the archives

From what began as an apparently spontaneous street dance at the beginning of the school year, a near riot occurred at Cameau student residences, involving over 50 members of Edmonton police. The police arrived on the scene after being tipped off that over a thousand students were partying it up in the area, and that some were throwing beer bottles and furniture in the residence. The residence madness resulted in the arrest of several students for such crimes as assault with a weapon, causing a disturbance and possession of an offensive weapon. Good times, no doubt. Ah, the fun that can be had with a bad temper, a love of destruction and sweet, sweet beer.

**1987**

**16** AIDS!!! Kerry Precht went to Guyana to teach people about health issues, like AIDS!!! Read about that, and how she was almost eaten by a pig, in Features.



## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed  
by Caitlin Crawshaw and  
Jake Edenloff

Now that classes are well underway, we at the *Gateway* are looking back on the festivities of the Week Of Welcome (WOW) with a nostalgic eye, despite the fact that we were too lazy to attend any of the events.

Did you attend any of the SU WOW events this year?



Andrea Leavins  
Nursing III

I knew what was going on, but I was very busy at the start of school. I have never participated. Sadly, I regret it. It sounded like so much fun but I missed out.



Dan Dyjur  
Nutrition IV

I didn't go to any of them this year. I didn't know what was happening, but I've been to [WOW events] in the past. I do care about the SU events on campus, but this is my last year, and I'm kind of focused on school.



Sylvia Feketejuty  
Arts IV

I didn't participate in any of the WOW events on campus this year. I knew what I wanted to see on campus already since I've been here long enough. I went to see my friends and hang out at places where I already knew there's stuff going on. [WOW] is a first year thing.



Morgan Kondrackyj  
Agriculture IV

No, I did not partake in the WOW events. I just got back from Europe and arrived in Canada with eight dollars in my pocket. I believe I went in my first year, but I think I was drunk for most of it. Then I realized I could get beer someplace else cheaper.

## ASL is first language for course instructor

ASL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Randy Dziwenka, the instructor of all three sections, explains (through ASL interpreter Tracy Hetman) that ASL cannot be directly translated into English.

"What you see me signing is not english vocabulary on my hands, following the phrasing of english. A lot of the grammatical features are on the face and the eyebrows, and the mouth is a very important modifier in the vocabulary. You get information simultaneously; you get information from the hand and the mouth. In spoken language you get the info in a sequential way. It is not an abbreviation of English. It is a very complicated, elaborate, and beautiful language."

Dziwenka says that ASL is his first language and english his second. To communicate with people who do not sign, he writes notes back and forth and uses gestures. According to Dziwenka, people often think that deaf people can speech-read, or read lips,

but these are not reliable ways for deaf people to communicate, as Dziwenka explained. "For example, 'I love you' and 'elephant shoes' look the same. So I typically prefer to speech-read because it leads to too many misunderstandings."

According to Dziwenka, a lot of hearing people are not sure what the proper terminology is when referring to deaf people. "I prefer to be called deaf, just deaf. That shows you respect me because it's not negative to call us deaf, like it's not negative to call you hearing."

"Deaf and dumb, deaf-mute, and hearing-impaired—for sure not. These come from a medical point of view that sees deaf people as a population that is impaired rather than a cultural minority. They think I can't communicate, but I can. The proper term is deaf."

ASL 111 is offered from 9:30-11:50, 2:00-4:20, and 6:00-8:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the fall term.



ALL SIGNS POINT TO...Randy Dziwenka, American Sign Language professor.

## Information from poker program to be used for AI research

POKER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Though one of the goals is for the program to beat the best poker player in the world, Billings says that being the best is not the primary goal.

He says his main goal is to complete scientific research and to learn special techniques from the program that can be applied to the wider field of artificial intelligence.

"We use games to explore research in artificial intelligence," explained Jonathan Schaeffer, Billings' PhD supervisor.

"A lot of the research has completed perfect information domains. So, for example, if you and I play a game of chess, that's called a perfect information game because there is nothing hidden. You look at the board and you know where all the pieces are. There are no secrets. If you play a game like [poker], it's not a game of perfect information. You can't see my cards. You can only guess what my cards are."

Schaeffer went on to note that computers are now very good at solving problems in a perfect information scenario but "the real world," as Schaeffer put it, does not operate by such terms. Schaeffer likened poker to a negotiation, because one never knows what the other side is willing to do. He said that creating a poker-playing program capable of beating the best in the

world is one small step in the right direction of programming computers to negotiate and reason.

Thanks to Billings, the program, which will optimistically be ready by next summer, has already accomplished a lot.

Aside from receiving media attention from CBC, the *Globe and Mail*, and the *New York Times*, to name a few, the research has been spotlighted at numerous world-renowned computer science conferences and also won the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence/American Association for Artificial Intelligence 2003 Distinguished Paper Award.

Billings has become the crucial link in the development of the program. Schaeffer claims that without Billings, the project's progress would be seriously endangered.

"The reality is that we couldn't be doing this without him because he's the poker expert," noted Schaeffer.

"If we build a strong program he's the only one who can tell us. So we use him in so many ways, one of which is assessing the program. Only when it passes his very tough criteria of excellence do we try and test it against other humans. He's the key to the whole project."

For more information, visit <http://games.cs.ualberta.ca/poker>.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER ABROAD NEXT SUMMER?  
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INFORMATION SESSIONS:  
Tuesday, Sept. 16, 4:30 pm, CAB 281  
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Students from all faculties are welcome to apply! Application deadline OCTOBER 1, 2003.

For more information contact:  
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gateway student journalism society  
PRESENTS

## GSJS Annual General Meeting

Friday, 26 September, 2003 at 3pm  
Third floor, Students' Union Building

### Tentative Business:

Approval of 2002-2003 GSJS Audit (Ellis, Govenlock LLP)

### Bylaw alterations:

- Removal of Circulation Manager as Line Editor
- Editorial Board member and alteration of Circulation Manager hiring procedures (Sec 2.7, 2.14, 6.3)
- Alteration of Staff definition such that the summer semester is skipped when counting contributions (Sec 2.8)
- Officer appointments will be made at first meeting after Board terms begin on May 1 and will expire when new appointments have been made or when the standing Board revokes an appointment (Sec 4.6)

Selection of new volunteer representative for the Board of Directors

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Board of Directors at [chair@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:chair@gateway.ualberta.ca) or visit

<http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsj/>

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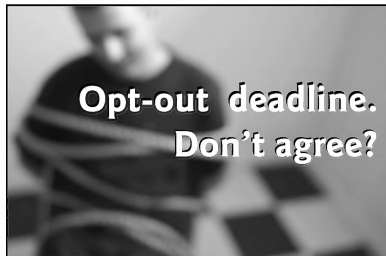
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The fall opt-out deadline is September 26<sup>th</sup>.



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## SUB mural painted over due to confusion between SU and maintenance staff

New mural to be commissioned by this year's SU Executive

JENNIFER ROLLS  
News Writer

A mural commissioned last year by the Students' Union Executive to represent unity in the Americas has been painted over due to a miscommunication.

Painted by students Mario Tellez and Erin Kelly, the mural, which was located at the bottom of the main stairs in the Students' Union Building, was mistakenly covered up during the summer by SUB facility staff.

According to SU Vice-President (External) Chris Samuel, the mistake was the result of a casual remark.

"A member of the staff had made an off-handed joke that once Mike [Hudema, last year's SU President] is gone then we can paint over the mural. Somehow that was taken seriously and became a directive for the staff to paint over the mural," said Samuel.

"Another factor in the removal of the mural was two members of SUB's senior management, SUB's Facilities Supervisor [Margriet Tilroe-West], and [current SU President] Mat Brechtel were all on holidays when the incident occurred," he said. This year's SU Executive has issued an apology to the two artists.

When interviewed, Hudema explained that the mural was commissioned as part of a campaign he ran against the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and its impacts on education.

**"A member of the staff had made an off-handed joke that once Mike [Hudema, last year's SU President] is gone then we can paint over the mural. Somehow that was taken seriously and became a directive for the staff to paint over the mural."**

CHRIS SAMUEL,  
SU VP (EXTERNAL)

"The mural was to be a statement that we want unity between North, Central, and South America, and that is not necessarily achieved through the FTAA," said Hudema. The mural depicted a landscape representing the Americas, with hands representing the north and south joining in a handshake.

According to Samuel, the SU has plans to commission a new mural.

They have contacted Tellez to see if he is interested; if not, then a new artist will be found. The current plan, explains Samuel, "is to use the wall that the mural was on and maybe have a calendar of events there and make it more of a focal point of the building rather than just a transient point." The new mural would be next to that wall.

The new mural will attempt to encompass the statement of the original mural. Additionally, Samuel explains he will be talking to provincial lobby organization the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) about running a province-wide campaign for the FTAA to include educational issues in its mandate.

The money needed to repaint the mural will come from the building's facilities budget.

Samuel explained that "because it was an error made by the facilities staff, the senior management and the exec have decided that it would be best to come out of the facilities [budget] and to basically equate it to accidentally breaking something while you are cleaning."

The commissioning of a new mural is this year's executive's attempt to rectify the situation. "I feel there is some responsibility that should fall to us," said Samuel. "But there wasn't any malicious intent or anything like that. I want to make sure that people know that."

## Space issues send Ryerson students to movies

PATRICIA OCAMPO  
Ryersonian

TORONTO (CUP)—Hundreds of Ryerson students attended classes last week in movie theatres because there are not enough seats on campus.

About 60 classes are scheduled in the Carlton Cinemas this semester, two blocks north of Ryerson's campus. Leasing the theatre is a temporary solution to the double cohort crunch resulting from the elimination of grade 13 from the Ontario school system.

"It's a very creative response," said Keith Alwinick, Ryerson's registrar. "I think it's infinitely superior to throwing up portables in the quad."

Linda Grayson, Ryerson's vice-president (administration and student affairs), negotiated the lease with the movie theatre last year when it became clear Ryerson would not have enough space to accommodate the almost 1000 additional students they would be admitting. Ryerson has leased Carlton until the end of the winter term.

Extra classroom space was expected at new business and computer buildings, slated to open this fall. But the opening date for the Centre for Computing and Engineering has been pushed back to September 2004.

Associate Registrar Ken Scullion says he believes once these buildings are up "there'll be no need for renting out space elsewhere."

"Preference is for our own space. We shouldn't have to go outside [the school] if we can provide it here."

The Carlton was a sensible choice because each of its nine theatres has up to 145 seats, Alwinick said. About 65 professors who requested larger class sizes can expect to teach at the Carlton this semester.

Ryerson retrofitted the Carlton theatres with state-of-the-art teaching equipment, including digital projectors and Internet connections.

The school has provided students with clipboards, located in large bins in the cinema lobby, to make up for the lack of writing tables.

Theatre staff have also made changes

to prepare for students.

Chris Ciavaglia, a manager at the Carlton, said they tried to consider what students needed, including adequate lighting.

"We replaced every single bulb with higher wattage ones, and left cleaning bulbs on all day."

The managers also opened the cinema café during the day. "It's a service for the students," Ciavaglia said. "We thought they'd like it."

What students did not like, however, was the long walk to the theatre from other Ryerson buildings.

"It's so far," said Sandrine Tieckman, a first-year applied chemistry and biology student. "The walk will be deadly in the winter."

Amanda Friel, a second-year nursing student, has a class on the other side of campus following one at the Carlton. "Getting back and forth [from campus] will definitely be a problem," she said.

Cartleton is open for classes from 8am to 3pm. Movies start at the Carlton after 4pm.

## Funding 'important signal' from government, says U of C Vice-President

FUNDING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Both Stack and Cooney expressed gratitude to the provincial government for the unexpected additional funding aid.

"I think it is a very important signal from the province that they are hearing what universities are saying about the pressures of growth, and I guarantee it will have a positive impact on the quality of education," said Cooney.

Stack agreed. "We were not initially expecting this additional funding at all," he said.

"This was unexpected, so it's great

**"We were not initially expecting this additional funding at all. This was unanticipated, so it's great news. We're very grateful to the government."**

PHILIP STACK, DIRECTOR,  
RESOURCE PLANNING

news. We're very grateful to the government."

Still, Stack sees postsecondary funding issues as an ongoing problem that will not be easily solved, adding that it's "critical to turn this into permanent funding in the future."

[Funding issues] have been a challenge for every university in Canada," agreed Cooney.

"We're all making a case for the value of investment in education. There's always going to be more demand than the ability of public services, and it's been a tough year across the board."

# OPINION

manag@ga.ewu.ca • Tuesday, 16 September, 2003

## Where's the figurative beef?

BROWSING THROUGH THE *National Post* the other day, I came across a very interesting article. The headline read "Hold the fries: Campus cafeterias go gourmet." It appears many eastern universities as well as the University of British Columbia have recently handed over their food services to gourmet chefs in an effort to put an end to the mass-produced instant garbage so often seen on campuses. The most recent university to incorporate this idea was the University of Carleton in Ottawa. Their new head chef has incredible credentials, including being the banquet sous-chef at the prestigious Chateau Laurier at the foot of Parliament Hill.

Hearing about this made me reflect on our campus' current service, particularly with Aramark. The cafeteria food has been average at best most days, way over priced, and extremely unhealthy. Living in Lister Centre forces me to deal with their meals daily. However, Lister residents aren't the only ones affected; food services in pretty much every building other than SUB and HUB are all run by Aramark.

The convenience of a cafeteria in a residence is something many students would not dare to go without, but as a captive market, this group is taken advantage of daily. The meals consist of an often overcooked and greasy main course heavy in carbohydrates with the option of a side dish: rice, pasta, potatoes, carrots, or peas. The choice, essentially, is carbs and carbs or carbs and starch. Trying to get some actual vegetables requires paying \$1.00/kg for a salad.

The other option is the admittedly improved vegetarian section, but the improvements have come with a hefty cost increase. Students are essentially punished for choosing the healthy option when a simple, average-sized, often carbohydrate-filled vegetarian meal costs \$6.99. Remember, this is only the cost of supper—a lunch and breakfast to the mix and the price skyrockets.

Forced into the meal plan, Listerites pay restaurant prices for sub-standard food. For the vast majority of us, the meal plan we buy does not even last the full year. On top of the \$3000 paid for residence, and the initial \$1600 to \$2200 paid for food, students can expect to add even more to our meal card before the year ends. Though groceries are an option, not everyone in Lister is equipped with proper cooking areas and the fact remains that a minimum of \$1600 is still banked away on a meal card. This money cannot be retrieved at the end of the year, only added on to next year's rent or put on a Varsity Green Card.

The situation across campus is not much better. We are forced to eat unsatisfactory, overpriced, non-nutritious meals if we choose to eat on campus. This is unacceptable.

Though the food has somewhat improved this past year, we are paying for the improvements. While the choices on campus seem to be slightly improving at Aramark under the direction of Larry Chow, the food service is still a far cry away from what is now being offered at Carleton. The Post stated that Carleton's revamped cafeteria offers a Mediterranean station serving spinach and ricotta pizza, a pan-Asian station serving swishen stir fry, and more, while at the University of Guelph, students are offered a wide variety of vegan and ethnic appropriate dishes.

Now, I realize that such an increase in quality may require a slight increase in price, but since we're currently being completely ripped off, I see no need for a price increase. And besides, if I was confident that I was eating nutritiously I would be willing to pay a higher amount anyway.

As students who are often stretched to the limits between school and work, nutrition is of the utmost importance. The subhead for the Post article read "Universities realize students are savvy customers." Apparently, the U of A has yet to come to this realization.

COSANNA PRESTON  
Associate News Editor

## A Johnny Cash haiku

THE MAN IN BLACK has been released into heaven to meet June again.

ADAM ROZENHART  
Managing Editor

## LETTERS

### A student cheats and gets away with it

As a professor of statistics, I feel compelled to write of my experience with one of my students who clearly cheated and got away with it.

We all know multiple-choice exams; they are very simple affairs. They are given very often because they are the fastest to mark. I allow my students the choice between putting their answers on the front page of the exam booklet by recording their choice of a, b, c, or d beside each question number, or by answering the questions by circling their choices in the exam booklet. In the first instance, I can write corrections in red pen beside the students' answers, and in the second case, I make corrections by circling the right answer in red pen. Then I add the number of mistakes, which correspond to the number of red pen marks, no matter how the students chose to express their answers in the exam.

This is simple enough, until a student cheats and lawyers get involved.

In the case of a midterm last year, one of my students erased her pen-written answers on the front page, re-wrote the exam in pen to make it appear as if she had answered by circling the choices, and returned the exam to me on the next day, claiming an extra 28 per cent. However, the erasure was still visible if someone looked hard under proper lighting, hence I reported the case.

At the first level she was found guilty and got a year's probation and a failing grade of 1. Then the appeal and the lawyers came. The Appeal Board that hears the case consists of two students and a law professor. Their names are known well in advance by all parties, unlike in real court where the jury is not known so that its members cannot be contacted or corrupted.

There is legal representation for the student, and for the university administration, but none for the instructor. In fact, the instructor is only a witness, hence excluded from the procedure. So anything can be said about her/him, and she/he has no chance to say which statements of the student or her lawyer(s) are true or not, as she/he is simply not there during the proceedings. The student on the other hand is present during the instructor's questioning, and has a chance to respond.

The instructor has no credibility anyway. In this instance, the board let the student off, although no explanation was given as to why she erased the pen-written marks so carefully and why she had re-written the exam in pen. The board did not believe my description of my method of marking. They did not believe me that it makes no sense to make corrections on the front page if the student did not write there.

I provided nine examples of other midterms that I had marked, but those weren't enough. The board said that my assertion that I wouldn't have marked the student's exam on the front page if her answers didn't appear legibly on that page was also in question. They did not explain why.



In other words, the board believed a student's claim of doing something unexplainable, rather than believe that the instructor's method of marking was logical and consistent, even though the student has motivation to cheat, while the instructor has no motivation to report cheating.

And so, I assure you, dear students, instructors do not report, and will not report cheating. If they do, they will be cross-examined for hours, humiliated, and their words not believed. If you want a better system where honesty is valued and cheating discouraged, change the system. Only you can do it; your teachers cannot do it for you.

EDIT GOMBAY  
Professor  
Department of Mathematical and  
Statistical Sciences

### Clarifying Council Forum

While I was immensely pleased to see "Council Forum" (11 September) return to the *Gateway's* esteemed pages, I am compelled to write yet another letter to the editor to satisfy my factual accuracy fetish.

The national anthem was removed from Students' Council's Standing Orders for the following reasons:

1. It takes up a pile of time for no particularly good reason;
2. There are a great many international students at the University of Alberta who are not Canadian citizens and do not necessarily feel any allegiance towards Canada.

3. There are a number of students at the U of A who are Canadian citizens, and who still don't feel any allegiance towards Canada. I am such a student.

As for the deservingly-reviled University Cheer Song, I am as mystified as your reporters as to why Council decided to leave it in Standing Orders.

On another note, my comments that every student association in Canada has a lousy governance process were not meant to justify having a lousy governance process here, but were instead meant to explain why we should not be emulating other student associations.

I would suggest that your News Editor decide if Students' Council's business is something that your

readership would like to read about. If it is not, Council Forum ought to be removed. If it is, it should be covered properly and accurately.

The next Council meeting is 23 September at 6 pm in University Hall. I encourage anybody with nothing better to do on a Tuesday night to attend.

STEVE SMITH  
Students' Union Business Council

### Lister Hall unfairly targeted

This letter is regarding the 9 September Campus Crime Beat article "Lister alcohol education time, perhaps?"

Well Mr Tanner, you're right, one girl did go to the hospital that night with alcohol poisoning. However, I would like to remind you and anyone who reads your article of a few things. Lister Centre (formerly Lister Hall) is primarily a first- and second-year residence and houses approximately 1800 students, making it the largest residential complex in all of Canada. A huge part of a student's first and second year of university is social experimentation, whether that is experimenting with what courses they take, their sexual orientation, or consuming alcohol.

So, is the fact that one resident from Lister went to the hospital on a Friday night with alcohol poisoning that astonishing? That means that 0.06 per cent of the Lister population had to go to the hospital because of overconsumption. Some, that doesn't seem too extraordinary—definitely not extraordinary enough to assume, as the title of the article suggests, that the residents of Lister are not and will not be educated in the responsible usage of alcohol. And it is most certainly not extraordinary enough to be written up as a sort-of felony in the Campus Crime Beat.

I would also like to point out that on the same night that this "extraordinary" event occurred, 800 Lister residents (none of whom got alcohol poisoning) were attending an event called ReZest. ReZest is an annual event in which the Lister Hall Students' Association (LHSA) puts on a concert/fundraiser, barbecue, and beer gardens to welcome back the residents of Lister. The LHSA will be donating between about \$6000 and

\$8000 to the Cross-Cancer Institute this year.

However, this is only a fraction of all the charitable work the students of Lister contribute. We come out in force to events like Shinerama for Cystic Fibrosis, Rakefest for the United Way, and the hair-cutting challenge to raise money for cancer research. All of these help to raise thousands upon thousands of dollars for the community at large.

And so begins another year...

JORDAN BLATZ  
President  
Lister Hall Students' Association

### Supercomputer blues

I'd like to respond to Mr Barabash's letter on the U of A's new supercomputer not being very cost effective ("U of A supercomputer not that impressive," 9 September).

Sure, I can run down to my local Future Shop, pick up 256 Pentium IV processors, 256 gigabytes of RAM, and enough hard drives for ten terabytes of storage, and come home only \$2000 poorer. Surely this is a better idea than spending \$3 million, you say.

But then the question remains, how should all of this hardware be connected together? Virginia Tech's new supercomputing cluster consists of 1100 individual Macintosh computers connected via a high-speed network. This works great when a program can be broken up into smaller jobs that can be distributed among machines. The problem is that some programs require a large amount of communication between processors, so large, in fact, that the interconnection offered by a real supercomputer is needed for the program to run at sufficient speed. Communicating over a general-purpose network introduces too much overhead. The processors and memory need to function as one integrated system.

Therefore, while in many respects it is possible to build a very powerful computer with off-the-shelf components, there remains a myriad of applications where brute strength isn't the deciding factor.

AARON DITTRICH  
Comp Sci Masters Student II

PLEASE SEE: MORE LETTERS • PAGE 6

## YOUR WORDS RIGHT HERE, BUB

Do you **hate** Jean Chretien? Want to **expose** the latest hypocrisy from Donald Rumsfeld? Have a **theory** on aliens and their **influence** over events in the Middle East?

Well, your opinions mean **everything** to me. So, what are your opinions? Let me know at the next **Opinion meeting**, happening this **Thursday at 4pm** in the Gateway offices on the **3rd floor of SUB**.

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## Kids are ugly, but boy do they inspire



SARAH  
HANASK

**"I mean, I'm not going to lie—Crossroads was only a slightly better show than when I watched a couple of cats rip the shit out of each other in my backyard over a dead bird carcass, but it *did* provide a piece of insight into Britney Spears that I could otherwise have easily ignored."**

I love junior high kids. Not because they're cute, because they ain't. Not because they're young and naïve. And it's certainly not because they are our future, because there's only one future around here and it's me, or so I've been told in many a graduation speech. Me. Not some stupid kid who may or may not pass grade eight French taught by a teacher with fake eyelashes who makes her students play a frenzied version of bingo instead of learning useful information like how to conjugate verbs.

No, I love junior high kids because they give me ideas. I was sad this week because I had no opinion article ideas. But then suddenly I found myself driving past my high school on the way to the gym. So there I was, just driving away, when BLAH! Some random goon-child jumps in front of my car, drops his cigarette then bolts away with his two goon friends.

Naturally I was startled, but in my shaken state, I still managed to stop at the crosswalk twenty feet ahead. About to turn left, I checked to my right for further children, cars, or street

lamps that could possibly dart out in front of me, and there they are in all three teens courtiously waving at me with their middle fingers. Not used to this method of goodbye, I did a cartoon-like double take, then did the only thing I could think of at the moment: I "waved" back.

Yes, I admit it. I stooped to their level. Normally I'm a fairly reasonable and polite individual who will go out of her way to accommodate others and not cause needless animosity. Like when I hold the door open for people and they don't say thanks. I'll let that go, even though inside I want to scream, "You're welcome!" right in their ungrateful faces. But I guess the combination of frustration and shock produced some sort of innate Darwinian reflexive response.

However, I'm not going to go on some torrid rant about how kids these days just have no manners and how I blame the parents, or how kids should be taught proper etiquette in school, or maybe be given electroshock therapy instead of detentions. Instead I'd like to applaud children for providing

the muse for much of the greatness in pop culture and column writing. Think about it. Where would the music industry be without thousands of songs and bands based on teenage angst and suffering? And if I had never read Are you there God? It's me, Margaret, I might never have discovered that even though I was a girl, I was still okay. Man, that was a crazy week.

And what about film? I mean, I'm not going to lie—Crossroads was only a slightly better show than when I watched a couple of cats rip the shit out of each other in my backyard over a dead bird carcass, but it *did* provide a piece of insight into Britney Spears that I could otherwise have easily ignored.

We should love teenagers, because if they didn't exist, there would be this weird period in our lives where we would suddenly age seven years instantly and the hormone surge would probably kill us, or at least cause brain damage. But hopefully not the kind of brain damage that compels us to watch movies like Crossroads.

## MORE LETTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

### Faculté handbooks explained

This is in regards to Katt Hryciw's remarks ("Faculté Saint-Jean gets the Handbook Shaft," 12 September) concerning the apparent lack of Faculté Saint-Jean-specific handbooks.

As president of the Faculté Saint-Jean's Faculty Association (AUFJS), I would like to explain that the creation of faculty specific handbooks was a project undertaken by last year's VP Academic, Matt Bechtel as chair of the Council of Faculty Associations (COFA). Given the extent of such a project, all faculties were given the opportunity to participate. The idea of faculty-specific handbooks is excellent and will benefit not only Faculté Saint-Jean but also all faculties across campus.

However, there were many reasons why the AUFJS did not create Faculty handbooks last year, most of them due to a constrained time frame prohibiting us from creating a handbook that would properly benefit FSJ students. This project has obviously not been forgotten and we do plan on creating a handbook for next year.

As for this year, if Miss Hryciw had stopped by our office (2-12F salon des étudiants) at anytime since WOW, she would have noticed that the AUFJS obtained 250 generic handbooks to give out to FSJ students. We were still able to provide access to this service without having created a handbook ourselves.

Miss Hryciw states her desire to have a completely French handbook for FSJ. This would obviously be fantastic. However, no Faculty Association, especially the AUFJS can afford a completely specific handbook. When we do undertake this venture, the FSJ section would be in French and the SU section would remain in English.

Finally, our office is always open and we are always willing to listen. But we cannot deal with complaints that are not brought to our attention. Student interests are extremely important to us espe-

cially because we are such a small faculty. We look forward to hearing your feedback during the 2003-2004 school term.

DAVID ARSENAULT  
President AUFJS

### Orientation helped at least one student

This letter is regarding Mark Barker's article "Orientation isn't helpful for new students," 9 September.

How could he justify writing so negatively about something he didn't attend? I'm sorry if six years ago the most exciting thing that happened to him at Orientation was the "arts and crafts component." He obviously missed the informative presentations from this year. Had he attended Orientation '03, he would have found it more appropriate to applaud the volunteers. While some put hours of work into their presentations, others came days late to be orientation leaders. They all deserve a pat on the back.

Did I learn something new during Orientation? Definitely. Was it "helpful"? You betcha. Could I have found my classes on my own? Probably, but those "three-metre campus maps" were not located every twenty steps and I have yet to find a decent map of the inside of any building on campus.

The only remotely negative aspect of Orientation was that they failed to instruct us on how to administer a proper sack beating. Mr Barker is obviously worthy of one.

JAMIE LEE ROTHENBERGER  
Science

### Guevara's ideals still live

First I was insulted, then I completely agreed, then I was insulted again. This was all in response to Kelly FitzGibbon's article about the absurdity of Che Guevara's image on anything short of toilet paper or leg warmers ("Your sense of fashion has kicked a handsome revolutionary," 11 September).

It's true: in the last few years, his popu-

larity has exploded, his image now found in more stores than even I saw army tags with his face imprinted on them at the Dollar Store, for crying out loud! But something about the article stung. Not that I think you were wrong in writing it, but I'm offended at your generalization of people who "wear Che." I mean, "dreadlocked denizens"? Maybe, but I saw at least four people alone on Friday wearing Che shirts, on campus, and none of them even came close. It's cute when kids get "guerrilla-like"? True, it happens too often, but do you truly know what any of these "kids" believe in? Did you personally ask each and every "Che wearer" why he/she wears him?

So, being only 22 and living here for most of my life, not having struggled with poverty and injustice, I can't possibly represent anything Che stood for? Only I'm not "snoot-nosed" nor do I wear Diesel or adhere to any other flipping trend that seems to pop every 3.5 seconds.

I am Latin American. I grew up learning about Che from my mother, admire his strength, and I bought a Che T-shirt many years ago, overseas, when they were virtually non-existent here. I see his struggle every single time I visit my relatives, and I'll finally graduate this year and move there so I can help out full-time.

I could be embarrassed to wear the toque my boyfriend sewed a Che patch on, because of how people view us "Che wearers," but I know where I stand, and I proudly walk with my head up, all the while wishing Che had not been reduced to the type of thing he was against.

KATIA MICHEL  
Arts V

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to [managing@edmontonjournal.com](mailto:managing@edmontonjournal.com).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

# Stem the sprawl, Mayor Bill, lest Edmonton die



ADAM ROZENHART

I lost my faith in the city last weekend. It was beaten out of me by a pack of ravenous Swedes. They beat me with shoveling units, all the while exclaiming, "Hop hop hop!"

Then I woke up in a cold sweat. The desk I bought from Ikea lies in pieces on my bedroom floor, taunting me. I'm not sure why I bought it, aside from the fact that I needed a new desk. I find Ikea furniture needlessly repressive. Having to put it together completely negates buying it in the first place, since it's almost always impossible to assemble without a team of carpenters and consultants on-hand.

If assembling Ikea furniture makes me hate said furniture, then actually getting to Ikea makes me hate Edmonton.

It isn't the parking, and it isn't the droves of goggling morons who wander around the store touching every single object in a vain attempt to better understand their surroundings. It isn't even Brandon, the delightful Ikea cashier whose cheerful demeanor was betrayed by his hateful stare as I struggled to present him with a bar-code to scan. No, it's the long road that leads to Ikea, the hateful Calgary Trail.

It's become cliché to say that Edmonton is the most poorly-planned

city in the western hemisphere. Our planners love the colours of traffic signals and abhor the efficiency of overpasses. Citizens lament this fact in the pages of the *Edmonton Journal* on an almost weekly basis. It's easy to dismiss this as nothing more than complaining. However, when a leading Canadian architect tells you your city's urban sprawl must be curtailed, you should listen up.

Mayor Bill Smith, however, completely dismisses any such suggestion, saying that people want choices about where they live. In light of the strain urban sprawl puts on Edmonton's roads, power and water lines, perhaps Smith ought to Q-tip his ear canals and pay attention.

**Show your citizens, Mayor Bill, how much it costs to build mansions at the edge of Ellerslie. Then ask people to choose: world-class city, or unmanageable sprawl.**

According to architect Jack Diamond, our city is something of a planning pariah. If we don't clean our love for sprawling neighbourhoods soon, the cash required to maintain the infrastructure we're building will be exceedingly difficult to obtain. In the time when Canadian cities are beg-

ging provincial and federal governments for more subsidies, our city council cannot ignore the amount of money we're wasting just so we can provide people with "choices."

A few years ago, there was a big hubbub about the ghost town called Jasper Avenue. People wondered why businesses downtown were struggling, why the core of Edmonton had virtually no nightlife outside of Whyte avenue. That hubbub has been virtually silenced; condos and high-rises are taking their places among the skyscrapers on Edmonton's horizon, and the nightlife is slowly returning to downtown Edmonton.

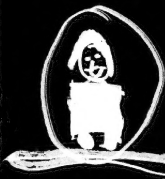
If you build it they will come. And if the mayor doesn't want to dot the city with more high-rises, he should consider creating mixed communities of single homes and low-rise condominiums, as Mr Diamond suggested.

Perhaps if Edmonton started building neighbourhoods more centrally, and as Mr Diamond offered, charged suburban homeowners the full cost of roads, power, gas and water lines, then folks would think twice about buying that white picket fence out in Buttfack, Nowhere.

The point is that Bill Smith should definitely provide his citizens with choices. Honest ones. Show your citizens, Mayor Bill, how much it costs to build mansions at the edge of Ellerslie. Then ask people to choose: world-class city, or unmanageable sprawl.

Meanwhile, I'll be over here stabbing my face with this repeatedly difficult to assemble Jerker desk.

## WE NEED COMIX, TOO



The small child we stole from a nomadic tribe last year is actually a **horrible** artist. If you look to the left, you'll notice the editorial cartoon he drew for this issue. Sigh. Clearly this drawing of Ralph Klein cannot be published. But your artwork can.

Have an idea for a comic? Why not bounce it off the Managing Editor? Better yet, drop your drawings by the Gateway office.

Who knows. Your cartoon might be the next Bub Slug.

## THE GATEWAY

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## THE BURLAP SACK

Thanks, all you closet homophobes out there who finally came out in solidarity to protest same-sex marriage last Thursday in Vancouver and prove exactly how backward Canada really is. As a sack beating to you all. Of course, you're entitled to your opinion—it's just too bad none of your arguments make sense.

Marriage should be about children? What about heterosexual couples who can't or choose not to have kids? Should they also not be allowed to marry? Is pumping a woman full of hormones and fertility treatments to make her give birth to a litter of six kids at a time more "natural" than a homosexual marriage?

You claim gay marriage threatens the traditional family? If you're not rallying against divorce or single-parent adoptions, what's your justification for

targeting the homosexual community?

Same-sex marriage is against the will of God? People sin all the time—and if you really cared about the will of God, you'd have a permanent tent-city vigil protest outside of Vegas. Besides, what's it to you if a bunch of people you've never met and obviously will never associate with choose to go to your definition of hell?

I don't recall "being gay" as one of the seven deadly sins. Lust certainly is, but two people who love each other and want to settle into a committed lifelong partnership evidently shows that they've moved beyond it.

Your hypocritical wrath on the other hand, doesn't seem to be showing signs of waning.

IVA CHEUNG

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

# Pot laws a headache for users



DAVID GIBSON

It's the most beautiful time of the school year, this merciful lull before the essay deadlines loom or the ignored readings start to pile up higher than the mounds of unwashed clothes and dishes, this all-too-brief calm after one has dealt with registration, rearranging timetables, and paying tuition but before the real school-work-related procrastination begins. It's a respite where the true student has but one real concern: getting wasted beyond all rational thought.

For those who spent their summer away from all forms of media and have missed the recent news, the federal government is considering decriminalizing marijuana, or at least the possession of small amounts (fifteen grams or less). This would mean that if you're caught less than fifteen grams of pot, the police would ticket you instead of arresting you. This is partnered with increased sentences for cultivation, while penalties for trafficking remain unchanged.

This legislation is designed to focus on the troublesome criminal element of drug dealers and suppliers while being more lenient towards casual users. This frees up police resources and jail space for more serious offenders. However, the new legislation has come under fire because of belief that it would increase the drug's use and availability. Meanwhile, pro-legalization supporters hail this change to drug laws as a step in the right direction. But is it?

Right now, to casual users, the police aren't much of a worry. There is the occasional hard-ass cop who goes for an arrest, but if the user only has a small amount and isn't flaunting it, most

cops look the other way. This is not because the Edmonton Police are strong supporters of pot use, but because actually making the bust is a pain in the ass.

Arresting someone eats up an officer's entire afternoon. They not only have to drop everything they are doing to escort said person to the nearest holding cell, but they must also spend an extended amount of time filling out the requisite paperwork. Then the system has to pay for the occupied jail cell, the arraignment, the eventual trial, the officer's time spent as a witness, and finally incarceration. This lengthy bureaucratic process effectively nullifies the need for decriminalization legislation since the police aren't likely to harass people in possession of small amounts of pot anyway.

All this changes with decriminalization. Now officers merely have to screw out a ticket to the offender and continue along their way. Smoking a joint would become a mild infraction, like speeding or parking over two handicapped zones to pick up a male hooker in bad drag. Fines ranging from \$65 to \$250 would be quickly and liberally dispersed throughout the herbal-using sub-community.

It was recently revealed that Edmonton police have a quota system for speeding tickets that encourages officers to hand out as many infractions as possible. And while decriminalization would do wonders for an already overburdened justice system, a quota system would most certainly be established for cannabis. No longer would police look the other way when they are being pressured to dispense as much paper justice as possible.

Pot smokers will become a source of revenue, similar to speeders and the contentious photo radar craze. With budgets being cut, any source of increased revenue is welcomed by the government.

We can only hope that, under the new decriminalization legislation, some of this money gets funneled back to benefit the majority of users—say, by lowering my tuition.

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# Beyoncé and Cuba lose the fight against suck

## The Fighting Temptations

Directed by Jonathan Lynn  
Featuring Cuba Gooding Jr. and Beyoncé Knowles  
Paramount Pictures  
<http://www.fightingtemptations.com/>  
Opens Friday, 19 September

JHENIFER PABILLANO  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The *Fighting Temptations* is supposed to be one of those heartwarming triumph-of-the-spirit films like *Varsity Blues* or the inimitable *Ladybugs*, where a ragtag bunch of nobodies (this time in the form of a choir) beats the odds by somehow pulling off a big win (this time, it's a major gospel competition). Lots of quirky characters are involved (this time has Rue McClanahan and R&B singer Montell Jordan on the payroll), and there's someone possessing ludicrous talent that will most certainly knock out the opposition (Beyoncé Knowles, songstress of Destiny's Child). And, as always, there is a charismatic leader at the helm to guide these people to their glory—in this case Cuba Gooding Jr.

So far, so good, right? Wrong. Oh, so horribly wrong.

Somehow, director Jonathan Lynn put all the elements together in such a way that none of it works. It doesn't help that he's got Cuba Gooding Jr., who obviously phones in this terrible performance to pay the bills, and that the film seems to have been edited into a choppy mess by that guy with the short-term memory problem from *Memento*. The net result is an excruciatingly painful viewing experience rivaled only by the experience of pouring hot bleach directly into your eyeballs.

Cuba plays Darrin Hill, a New York City ad executive who comes back to small-town

Montecarlo, Georgia, for his aunt's funeral. In her will, she tells Darrin to lead the church choir to win a gospel championship in six weeks' time. If he does it, he'll get a small inheritance. That's crucial, as Darrin's been recently fired and owes thousands in credit card bills.

So Darrin takes over the awful, tiny choir, whose membership includes the vengeant sister of the church pastor, who ran Darrin's family out of town years ago after discovering his mother was singing in a nightclub. Despite her objections, Darrin hooks in Lilly (Knowles), another cabaret singer, who turns in a surprisingly pleasant performance as the choir's soloist. And this is when the movie begins to go haywire.

**For a much better version of a choir making good, catch *Sister Act 1 or 2*—like Cuba, Whoopi's got a supporting Oscar too, and the second film's even got Lauryn Hill, who could destroy Beyoncé just by thinking about it.**

Instead of going to the proper next step—namely, showing the group growing to trust each other, ironing out the quirks, or what we would call character development—the film inexplicably cuts to a title card reading "Three Weeks Later." And when we cut back to the movie, the terrible choir has suddenly turned into God's heavenly cherubim.

But even after this jaw-droppingly insane narrative leap of logic, things manage to roll steadily downhill. A brief set of scenes display a

stilted romance between Lilly and Darrin, and in a mostly unexplained move, three convicts show up from the local prison to be part of the choir.

Darrin then suddenly gets rehired by his ad agency in a rather disturbing subplot—he's to be the driving force behind selling malt liquor to poor black people—and with real enthusiasm, he ditches the choir for New York, until he has a strange *deus ex machina* revelation in the midst of a malt liquor ad pitch.

Of course, he flies back, rejoins the choir for its big win, and asks Beyoncé to marry him. Another title card announces "Eighteen Months Later," and a baby shows up. The scenes are flashed to show that all the key elements are there, but none of them are ever connected in a meaningful manner that would make any movie-gor care.

As for the musical scenes, they're filmed and sung well, but the astonishing crap going on within the narrative makes them feel disjointed distractions more than anything else.

If your money's worth anything to you, never see this film, on video, the cheap theatres, or on a plane. For a much better version of a choir-making-good, catch *Sister Act 1 or 2*—like Cuba, Whoopi's got a supporting Oscar too, and the second film's even got Lauryn Hill, who could destroy Beyoncé simply by thinking about it.



# The world mourns the loss of Johnny Cash, the original Man in Black

JAKE THROUGHTON  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

There are only eight people in both the Country Music and Rock and Roll Halls of Fame, and when Johnny Cash died at the age of 71 last week, we lost the last of them.

This was no hollow loss, as is so often the case when aging legends long past their prime pass away. You wouldn't have known it from listening to the radio, but Johnny Cash was still making music that was every bit as good as his most famous hits from decades ago. Now, the world has been deprived of the music that the Man in Black had yet to make and that's reason enough for any music lover to shed a few tears.

His earlier hits were certainly enough to establish his legend. His songs ranged from gospel to tender country to blues-rock to comedic classics like "A Boy Named Sue," which was written

about a man who gives his son a girl's name so he'll grow up strong. His melodies were sometimes political, as in "The Ballad of Ira Hayes" where he wrote about an American Indian soldier who encounters racism upon returning home. Although he was deeply religious—he even produced a movie, *Gospel Road*, about the life of Jesus—his songs often had a darker edge. His hit "Folsom Prison Blues" contains one of the most famously dismal couplets ever written: "I killed a man in Reno / just to watch him die."

The common thread among these diverse songs was Cash's powerful baritone. He didn't just sing songs; he made you feel them. I defy anyone to listen to "Ring of Fire" and not feel some of the excitement of new love. Or for that matter, even to hear "A Boy Named Sue" without feeling the frustration, shame, and anger of the title character even while laughing throughout.

By now you've heard about Cash's long list

of accomplishments, but even just a small sampling of them is incredible. In all, he recorded over 1500 songs and released more albums than I can count (45 of which are still in print).

**In a very real sense, the world will be poorer now that he's gone to the great big bad-ass rodeo in the sky.**

He had more solo country hits than any other musician of his ilk, and also worked as part of the country supergroup The Highwaymen. On top of his country and rock honours, he is also in the Songwriters Hall of Fame, which made him the only man in all three halls. His early hit "I Walk the Line" has been covered by over 100 artists,

which is just one of the most blatant indications of the influence his music has had.

Despite this enormous success, his recent work has been completely ignored by country radio. After his 1996 album *Unchained* deservedly won a Grammy, he took out a full-page ad to "acknowledge the Nashville music establishment and country radio" for their support. The ad featured a black and white photo of an angry Johnny flipping the bird at the camera. Johnny Cash was cool.

Johnny Cash died with a lot more good music left in him. In a very real sense, the world will be poorer now that he's gone to the great big bad-ass rodeo in the sky. Music lovers, whether they know it or not, are better for having had him. The music he gave us is among the best we'll ever hear.

But perhaps most importantly, Johnny Cash was cool.



## TOP 5 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BE SAD THAT JOHNNY CASH IS DEAD:

**5** Aside from being a gruff-looking unruly songster, Cash also carried on one of the greatest rockstar love affairs of our time. In 1968, he married musician June Carter and went on to write "Ring of Fire," one of the most influential love songs ever recorded. The two stayed together until death did them part, when Carter passed away last May.

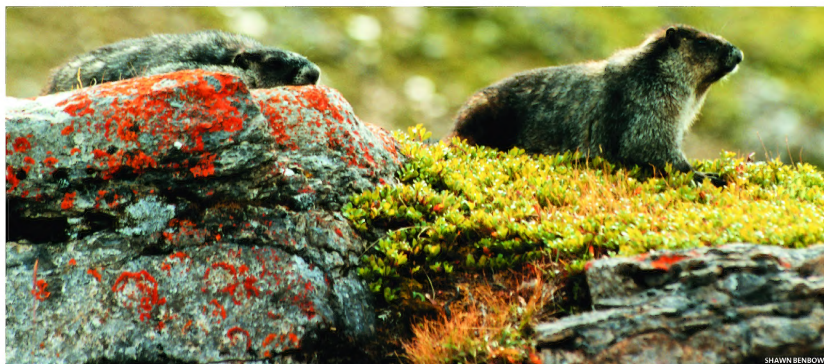
**4** Known as "The Man in Black," Cash proved black wasn't just slimming, but also totally bad-ass.

**3** After a struggling songwriter named Kris Kristofferson (who was paying his dues by working at a janitor at a recording studio) landed on Cash's front lawn in a helicopter armed with a beer and demo tape, Cash was so impressed he recorded Kristofferson's song, "Sunday Morning Coming Down." The song went on to make it to the top of the charts and won the 1970 Country Music Association award for Song of the Year. Try finding another musician who wouldn't have had the trespasser shot.

**2** His 1996 album, *Unchained*, featured covers of Soundgarden, Beck, Don Gibson, and Jammie Rodgers. He most recently released a cover of Nine Inch Nails' "Hurt" on last year's *American Man IV: The Man Comes Around*, proving that he could pretty well cover any genre of music and still make it his own.

**1** Cash became a musician at the age of twelve, went to college, joined the Air Force, wrote two biographies, overcame a drug problem, hosted a TV variety show, has 45 albums still in print, appeared in 13 feature films, won five Grammys and has been inducted into both the country and rock n' roll halls of fame. What have you done lately?

—Heather Adler



SHAWN BENBOW



THE GATEWAY

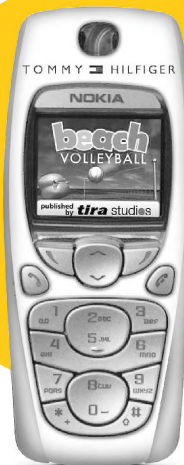
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6031 - 103 St.  
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# Once upon an odious film

## Once Upon a Time in Mexico

Starring Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Willem Dafoe and Johnny Depp  
Sony Pictures  
www.onceuponatimeinmexico.com  
Now playing

FREDERICK KROETSCH  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you could have read Robert Rodriguez's mind before he made *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*, we probably would have heard him thinking something along the lines of "Hey, you know what would be awesome? If I remade a movie that I once directed, which in turn was itself a remake of another movie that I once directed. That would be totally amazing, right?" No, Mr. Rodriguez, sadly it would not.

Rodriguez directed, wrote, produced, shot, edited and scored the entire film, which obviously didn't leave a lot of time for quality control. And really, it's hard to picture him in San Miguel De Allende—the colonial town where the film was shot—sitting in a director's chair with a camera on his shoulder, a bundle of orchestral music in his hands, and a number of big-name Hollywood actors surrounding him to ask for direction.

Not that the cast should even have had any idea what was going on; the plot certainly didn't make much sense. The movie begins with Banderas, again reprising his now classic El Mariachi character, being forced to sabotage an evil cartel kingpin's (Willem Dafoe) assassination plot against the president of Mexico. But El Mariachi had his own reasons for entering this messy plot: namely, revenge against some General who killed his girlfriend, played by Salma Hayek. To further confuse things, a backstabbing confidant to Dafoe, an ex-FBI agent, and a CIA character (Johnny Depp) get involved in the already cluttered plot. There's a whole lot of backstabbing, front-stabbing and general chaos spewed out in a revolutionary Mexican setting, and it's enough to make any movie-goer dizzy with confusion. Rodriguez has far too many main characters trying to realize too many subplots, and it gets to the point where it's hard to tell exactly what the story arc is supposed to be.

Salma Hayek's role in the film is purely to provide a backstory that sets up El Mariachi's quest for vengeance. Her character is never given an opportunity to develop, which means it's hard to care whether or not her death is ever avenged. The comedy in the film is similarly weak, with Johnny Depp's character going so far as to wear a fake third arm. Mid-way through the film you begin to expect him to start appearing on the screen saying never rises about the



**KABOOM!** Robert Rodriguez's new film totally blows

level of such amazing witticisms like "Are you a Mexican or a Mexican?" or people wearing T-shirts with "CIA—Cleavage Inspection Agency" written on the front.

The only strong points the film are on the technical side. Shot on Hi-Def video, Rodriguez's keen cinematographic eye creates a very strong visual environment. There are a number of large-scale battles that take place in the city streets between soldiers and citizens dressed in elaborately outlandish costumes. In another visually remarkable scene, picturesque paper-mâché skulls hang from every lamp post in one as tanks fire into buildings, which creates an eerie setting.

Rodriguez initially found fame in his ability to put together a feature-length action film for only \$7000 in *El Mariachi*. He has illustrated an ability to create innovative action scenes and some of his films—such as *From Dusk till Dawn* and *Desperado*—have been elevated to cult status. Unfortunately, this time Rodriguez falls desperately short of achieving that same innovation that originally brought him success. If he could stop expending his energies on the technical details and focus more on the big picture, this movie might have actually been worth watching.

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# Get out of megaplexes and into megaplots



CHARITY SMITH

A&E  
Commentary

What is going on at the movie theatres? This past weekend saw the number one movie take in only \$6.6 million. \$6.6 million! That's a chump change by Hollywood standards. The last time the box office saw such poor ticket sales was in the weekend shortly after the bombing of the World Trade Center, when Mariah Carey's super-bomb *Glitter* was the biggest release.

So what's causing this apathy in movie viewers? Quite simply, there's an extraordinary number of painfully bad films. So bad, in fact, that the production companies won't even promote them.

Films starring actors who are normally synonymous with big bucks at the box office are nosediving—within the past month, Heath Ledger and Kate Hudson released movies that you probably didn't even hear about. *The Order* and *Le Divorce*. They both limped into theatres so quietly that it appeared the movie studios would prefer that you didn't even know they were there. Which isn't a bad idea, really, as they try to beg audiences for forgiveness after having the balls to promote such brain-melters as *Gigli* and *My Boss's Daughter*.

In *Gigli*, Jennifer Lopez is a lesbian



**I THOUGHT WE WERE STARS** Why are we in this terrible movie?

who gets hit on my Ben Affleck's mom, but eventually decides to switch teams after being charmed by Affleck. Oh, that's funny stuff. Meanwhile, in *My Boss's Daughter*, Ashton Kutcher has trouble expressing his feelings, but after spending the night with people he doesn't know and taking care of a house that's not his while trying to get the attention of a woman who's using him, he magically brings together a dysfunctional family and falls in love. Oh, the hilarity. Make it stop. No, I'm serious: make it stop.

With winners like these out there, is it any wonder people aren't willing to give *Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star* a chance. Smaller studios would do well to take advantage of this black hole release period for Hollywood and put out some lesser-known films that lack only in promotional funds. True

moviegoers like to hit the theatre regularly, not just on long weekends. They are the people that generate the word of mouth that can lead to box office success beyond the opening weekend. Just ask those crazy students behind *The Blair Witch Project* or *Nia Vardalos* and her big fat Greek movie.

Ignore the megaplexes and all their glittering lights and smoke-snorting dragons. Take advantage of that student discount at the Garneau or the Princess Theatre, or check out some of the quirky films playing down at the metro.

You, too, can *Bend It Like Beckham* or dance on the Russian Ark. Go see a quality movie before Hollywood finds something in production they think they can actually convince you to spend \$13.95 on. You'll be glad you did.

## What do you want to do in business?

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# No Use For A Name: successful on their own terms

## No Use For A Name

with guests  
Red's  
Wednesday, 16 September

MICHAEL FOWLE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

There's something to be said for good friends forming a collective to express a common musical focus for years on end. It's like a tribe; instruments in hand, staring across the desert plains in sync, together chasing down life's elusive tunes. There's also something to be said for tribal change; shaking loose the static to stay fresh and current. Bands like No Use For A Name (NUFAN) thrive when new blood joined the tribe. Instead of worrying about becoming static, these bands worry how to maintain a cohesive identity despite the member changes.

Punk veterans NUFAN change guitarists more often than most people change their socks. The band's two main guitar positions—which fill in an attack of frantic, rhythm-driven straightforward punk—has seen a total of ten different six-stringing alibers fronting it. With so many different members, it is a wonder how they continue to come together to produce a cohesive sound.

Yet Dave Hessie, the tenth and most recent guitarist to join, explains the group philosophy of trying to balance band evolution and history. "I just wanted to pay respect to the history that was there, to all the things No Use For A Name accomplished before. I think that is how things evolved in this band and one wouldn't be in the band if one didn't have that mindset."

Their guitarists may have change



**WE'RE SO PUNK!** I'm totally going to squash this chili dog like a punk kid squashing a preppy

over the years, but the mindset of the group remains the same. For them, success is found in a common desire to survive and resist yesterday. Continuity of their musical ideals over the past decade saw the band reach their collective idea of success. "At this point, we're extremely successful," Hessie affirms. "Success for us doesn't have to mean cracking into the mainstream, and selling millions of albums; we do exactly what we want to do and we feel lucky to have a loyal fan base."

Because of this loyal fan base and the connection they feel to the kids coming out to their shows, the band jumped on the opportunity to tour

Canada. And they won't just be gracing the three kings of the country (Vancouver, Montreal, Toronto) either, as small market or large market, Hessie maintains that on stage, NUFAN years to be "a crap-load of energy."

"Every night we just try to outdo the night before," he proclaims. NUFAN has even enlisted a group of North-American unheard-ofs to open for this tour, just to give people something a little more out of the ordinary. For instance, Israeli punk band Useless ID may seem like an unlikely choice for NUFAN's opening slot, but Hessie says they were chosen because the band is both amazing and similar in style. "They're really good song writ-

ers, good musicians, and really nice guys," Hessie praises.

After touring above the 49th parallel, the band will be hitting Europe for a string of dates before going in to record their follow-up to 2002's *Hard Rock Bottom*. Both the reality of the present and future ambitions of the band are clear to Hessie and his mates.

"No Use For A Name is now us four guys trying to write the best music we can and we have a really strong punk rock history because the fans have been really good to us," he states. It appears that, for the time being, No Use For A Name has no use for a change.

## CULTURA OBSCURA



### Baby Shoe Clock

PHILIP HEAD  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Are you the type of person who always forgets your watch, yet always carries a baby whenever you go? Well, now you will never need to bother random passers-by again to ask for the time thanks to the amazing baby shoe clock.

Whenever you need to know the time, just flip your baby upside down and read their feet; you'll never miss nap time again. This product is also educational as babies can learn to read time while sticking their feet in their mouth.

Now, some people might wonder if carrying a baby around is necessary to use the baby shoe clock. The obvious answer is yes. There is no chain to attach the show to keys or bags, so it must be intended strictly for infant footwear. Although you could conceivably tie the laces around your neck for some pedantic style bling, surprisingly few individuals can successfully carry off that look.

This digital device for little footies will likely clock swift sales solely due to its inherent usefulness. Just try not to submerge your baby in water as this watch isn't H<sub>2</sub>O resistant.

# What is AP!RG?

The Alberta Public Interest Research Group (AP!RG), is a student funded & student directed community-minded organization dedicated to education, action & research in the public interest. It provides space & resources for student Working Groups.

## AP!RG resources include:

- funds for research & activities
- a lending library
- organizational skills training
- educational events & speaker presentations
- administrative/staff support

## Current Working Group topics:

- GMOs & organic foods
- climate change
- fair trade
- gender issues
- globalization & inequity
- media & democracy
- war & racism
- workers' rights

Providing students with resources to be active citizens

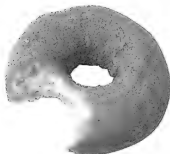
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# Montréal musicians bring political punk rock to town

Selfmademan fight the corporate world by playing punk music to spiky-haired kids across Canada

## Selfmademan

with guests  
Wednesday, 17 September at Seedy's  
Friday, 19 September at Royal Canadian  
Legion

HEATHER ADLER  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

"Even in my daily life I can come up with a thousand things to sing about, all of which come back to one thing: society," remarks Jay Matte, the politically-minded front man of Montréal's Selfmademan. While most "punk" bands in today's dazzling Much Music spotlight resemble pop acts more than philosophical rebels who once defined the genre, Matte and his group of self-admitted closet-communists say they are staying true to damn-the-man ideals.

Their clever licks and feverishly pace guitars may sound like a marriage of Hot Water Music and Face To Face, but the socially-conscious folk behind their fiery sound sets the band apart from their contemporaries. "I use the word 'punk' to describe our band only because of the lyrics behind that scene, or at least the lyrics that I think define punk," Matte asserts. "I think it's important to at least position yourself, whether it be in an abstract way or a concrete way." Taking cues from opinionated orchestras like Bad Religion and Fugazi who paved the political way before him, Matte has positioned himself as a new face in the fight against the nine-to-five life-style. His latest album, *The Daylight Robbery*, is a musical mutiny against the soul-sucking corporate lifestyle.

"On the latest record, my favorite

topic was based around losing your day," Matte explains. "It's about investing your entire day in a corporation and being too tired to give a shit about anything else." Matte has also put in his suit-and-tie time for a few big companies, but after seeing both sides to the metaphorical coin, he's decided his true calling is to be a musician telling people they "don't have to live to work, they just work to live."

"Everybody wants a day off, and everybody loves to sit down to do nothing but think," he notes. "I think people know it, and they feel it; they know exactly what I'm talking about when I say 'you're getting your day stolen from you and you'd like to get them back.'"

The cure, Matte says, is just to accept that "life is right now, so there's no point in investing all your time in thinking about retirement." With that bright-eyed ambition, Selfmademan has set out to tour and spread the word

for the next several months, but garnering a number-one hit doesn't rank high on their list of goals.

"If people enjoy our music and it ends up being number one on some sort of list then great, because that means I'm getting my message across," Matte states. "I don't think we're an all-profit organization, though—there's some giving back to the community."

But for now, Matte hopes that the community can at least learn to give back to itself. He may seem naïve to think one person can make a difference in the world, but he swears by that if people will give it a try we can all be more fulfilled. "You can always start a collective or an affinity group, which can help get your point across to lobby groups for any cause," he says. "Start a band and spread your message that way if you can; you might actually make a difference and you might actually lead a life that's more than nine-to-five."



SEE THAT FINGER? Yeah, that's what Selfmademan think about working nine-to-five for the man.



## FREE STUFF

DREAMWORKS AND THE GATEWAY WANT TO SEND YOU TO THE MOVIES

When aspiring writer Jerry Falk (Jason Biggs), meets a free spirited woman named Amanda (Christina Ricci), it's love at first sight. Suddenly his life, which he previously thought was just like "anything else," is turned upside down by the unpredictable Amanda, who is quite simply not like anything else. The film opens in theatres 19 September, but we want you to see it early!

You and a guest are invited to a promotional screening Wednesday, 17 September at South Edmonton Common. Just drop by The Gateway office on 3-04 SUB after 1pm and tell the entertainment editor if you believe in love at first sight.

THE GATEWAY  
MAKING LOVE TO DEAD TREES SINCE 1910



## Puffy AmiYumi

Nice  
Columbia  
[www.puffyamiyumi.com](http://www.puffyamiyumi.com)

IAN LUCH  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Japan's Puffy AmiYumi makes simple,

catchy, retro-styled pop-rock in the most wonderfully eclectic of ways. Borrowing beats, riffs, and melodies from disco, punk-rock, pop, and ska, Nice is an eclectic fusion of worlds, which has an appeal that transcends the traditionally isolated market for j-pop.

Puffy AmiYumi is very, very popular in Japan, and it's easy to see why. Their vocals are tight, the songs keep you humming and after only a few listens you can't help singing along even if you don't speak a word of Japanese. Not too sweet, but not bitter and angry, it's music that'll make you smile without the nasty, shallow aftertaste Nice provides all the guilty pleasures of pop music, minus the inane lyric, dull personalities and only-two-decent-track CDs.

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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Football

The **Golden Bears** (1-2) got their second win at the University of British Columbia in twelve years, defeating the Thunderbirds 37-22 at Thunderbird Stadium Friday night.

David Bissett became the first Golden Bear since 1986 to run back a kickoff for a touchdown, opening the second half with a 98-yard return. Defensive-back Jason Milne also snagged his league-leading fourth interception, which turned out to be the turning point of the game as the Bears went on to overcome a 9-0 deficit.

The win keeps the footballers' playoff hopes alive as they will play the next three games at home, beginning with Manitoba on Saturday, 20 September at 7pm.

### Soccer

Unfriendly weather attacked the **Pandas** (2-0) soccer team during both of their matches this weekend. On Friday they hosted the University of Calgary Dinos (0-1) in their season opener at Foote Field, winning the battle of Alberta 3-1. The team spread the scoring around, with goals coming from midfielder Kristie Tokunaga and from strikers Cheryl Cormack and Lindsay Nelson.

Nelson would go on to score the only goal of the game against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns (1-2) on Sunday afternoon, chipping a shot over the head of Pronghorn keeper Diane Reid.

The **Golden Bears** (2-0) also provided their fans with a weekend sweep. First came a 2-1 victory over the Calgary Dinos (1-1) on goals from midfielders John Castrillon and Jarin Myskiv.

On Sunday the Bears manhandled the Lethbridge Pronghorns (0-2) in a 3-0 shutout that exploited a weaker Lethbridge defense. Goals came from forwards Brett Bachelu and Clint Ludtke, and a pretty free kick from Jordan Gillespie that bounced in off the crossbar.

### Hockey

**Edmonton Oilers** fans will get another glimpse at the distant future at this year's annual exhibition game between the **University of Alberta Golden Bears** and the Oilers rookies. Bears' fans will get a peek at the upcoming season, while Oilers fans can only wonder which of the rookie squad participants will ever make the NHL. Game time is tonight at 7pm at Clare Drake Arena, and will be the first Golden Bears hockey action of the year.

### Volleyball

The Golden Bears volleyball team host an exhibition game against the Team Canada Senior Masters men's volleyball team on Friday, 19 September, at 8:30pm in the U of A Main Gym. The Master's team is mostly comprised of former Team Canada team members from the '70s, '80s, and '90s.

The Masters team includes middle Allan Coulter, who competed on the 1984 Canadian Olympic team in Los Angeles and in the 1992 Barcelona games.

### Sports say the damndest things by Joel Chury

The things that people can do when they have stupid amounts of money. In 1976 a much younger Ted Turner—sans Jane Fonda—bought the Atlanta Braves to keep the struggling team in Georgia. Taking the crazy antics of Yankees owner George Steinbrenner to a much higher level, Ted fired manager Dave Bristol in 1977, and actually suited up to manage the team himself for one game.

Steinbrenner was notorious for firing managers, and sometimes would even call down to the dugout, but never had the southern crass of TBS Superstition magnate Ted Turner. Teddy was suspended by the league for tampering, and was forced to hire a new manager to replace himself.



**STRIKE THAT** Golden Bear midfielder Jordan Gillespie (16) gains enough space to get 'shot off.

CORY WANLESS

## Soccer Bears maul Pronghorns

JOEL CHURY  
Sports Editor

As the saying goes about Alberta, if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes. The Golden Bears soccer match against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns began five minutes after its scheduled start time of 2:15pm as the sky cleared following an earlier drenching during the Pandas' match. But good fortune didn't end there for the Bears, as they were able to retain ball possession for an extremely lapped amount of time in the match, cruising their way to a 3-0 victory.

Despite the pleading screams of Pronghorn goal-keeper Marcel Galaszkiewicz, the Bears were able to contain the ball in the Pronghorn's end for most of the game without much contention. Bears forward Hilare Kamden took advantage of many corner kicks, creating chaos inside the box with every perfectly placed looping corner-cross, one of which was headed in by Bears forward Brett Bachelu to open the scoring in the tenth minute.

According to coach Vickery, Kamden's corners have noticeably improved this year over past

seasons. "I think he's heard from me that he's got to execute early on," said Vickery. "He can't be wasting corners, and today that was a perfect example when he dropped the first one in so Bachelu could score."

A questionable pass-back call on the Pronghorns in the 31st minute led to the second goal, all but erasing the Pronghorns' comeback hopes. The referee believed that a Pronghorn defender had passed the ball back to his goalkeeper who picked the ball up, thus resulting in a whistled-down play and a free kick for the Bears from the point at which the pass was made. Unfortunately for the Pronghorns, that pass was made about eight yards away from the goal line. A quick touch-pass by forward Mark Korthius to midfielder Jordan Gillespie set up the second goal as Gillespie fired the ball over the crowd of players in the crease, off the crossbar and into the net. "This placement was perfect," said Korthius of Gillespie.

The second half proved to be less eventful, as the Bears continued their possession dominance while providing some playing time to their bench players. "We had quite a bit of time

on the ball today, and tried to spread it around," explained Gillespie. "All the subs got in, so it's nice to see everyone get some touches on the ball."

The third goal came in minute 73, as newly-acquired Golden Bear striker Clint Ludtke scored on a rebound past a sprawling Pronghorn keeper, out of position after making an initial save off of his chest.

The Bears also won their match against the match against the Calgary Dinos on Friday 2-1, and will travel west this Thursday to play three games on the coast against Victoria, the University of British Columbia, and Trinity Western. Vickery knows the BC trip will represent a larger challenge for his squad.

"We're still in early season form, but going into Vancouver next week we'll need to be in midseason form because those teams tend to get a headstart in terms of training camps and more exhibition games," claimed Vickery. "With the two wins we gained this weekend that should put us in good standing, but we're going to have to play better come next week."

## Pandas spite Mother Nature with win

Soccer Pandas pelted with rain and wind but come away with win against Lethbridge.

JOEL CHURY  
Sports Editor

For the soccer fans that came to see the Pandas on Sunday, it seemed that Mother Nature was a little tougher on the women than the men who played later under a sunny cloud-breaking sky. But despite the adverse conditions on the rain-soaked pitch, the Pandas were able to keep the Alberta weekend sports sweep alive as they did their part winning their game 1-0.

The game's only goal came in the 44th minute, with Pandas striker Lindsay Nelson taking a pass from fellow striker Alix Strap and chipping a shot over the Lethbridge keeper, who paid the price for challenging the ball too far out of her net.

Play in the second half was more cautious, with the Pandas struggling to establish momentum in the opening 15 minutes. "We were still just warming up, as it was pretty cold out there," said a drenched striker Cheryl Cormack. "This was kind of a shock to the system, as usually we

graduate into this kind of weather, but we got hit with it pretty early this year."

Not only did the rain play a part, but the team was teased by the winds as well. "In the first half, not only was it raining, but they had the wind which didn't really help anything," rasped a cold-rasped Pandas head coach Kelly Vandergift. "The soccer balls were real wet and very heavy—a lot heavier than what we were used to."

Despite a slow start to the second half, the Pandas were able to create several scoring opportunities. A late Cormack goal was called back on a hand-ball inside the box, which provoked a reaction from the brave fans who sat bundled in the stands.

"It wasn't pretty, but when it's windy and cold, it's hard to play nice soccer in those conditions," reflected Vandergift. "All things considered, we played pretty well."

The win was their second of the season, as they defeated the Calgary Dinos 3-1 on Friday afternoon under another shroud of equally dismal weather conditions. Though rain is a distinct pos-

sibility, the Pandas can look forward to better weather conditions on Thursday when they head to Victoria to begin their three-game west coast swing, with Trinity Western and UBC completing the triumvirate.



PAUL CLEVER

# Football win at UBC

West coast win keeps Bears' playoff hopes alive

BRYAN LEE  
Sports Staff

In everything except payphones, change is inevitable.

For the Golden Bears football team (1-2), the change was for the better, as they grabbed their first win of the season on a 37-22 team effort in Vancouver against the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds.

"The key play was Jason Milne's [second quarter] interception. Our defence was struggling and giving up too many yards, but gained confidence after that," explained Bears head coach Jerry Friesen. "The more UBC threw, the better our defensive backs played."

Despite the stress placed on them by the UBC offence, the Bears defence came up big when it counted. Although UBC was consistently moving the chains, all they could show for their three trips to the red zone were three field goals for a 9-0 second-quarter lead.

But after the interception—Milne's fourth of the season—the Bears offence woke up and played strong for the rest of the game. This was in sharp contrast from the prior two contests against Calgary and Saskatchewan, where the offence was productive in the first half but sputtered in the second.

Quarterback Darryl Salmon found slotback Bryce Coppieters for a 16-yard touchdown strike, and later found wideout Andrew Ginter on a 35-yard bomb to take a 14-9 halftime lead. Salmon would finish the game with 239 passing yards on the strength of three touchdowns and a rushing TD.

"He's maturing and starting to feel his legs," Friesen said of the third-year pivot, who also played briefly with the Bears basketball squad last season. "He's like a young colt finding out what he can and can't do. We're trying to push him as far as we can with the tools he can use."

The available tools are plenty, as Bears receivers leader Andrew Ford and slotback Dustin Ralph round out the strong receiving core, with running backs Jarred Winkel and Tim Hetherington also catching short passes out of the backfield.

"We have a great bunch of receivers, especially at wide-out with Ford and (wide receiver Andrew) Ginter. They're always fighting for the ball," Salmon conceded.

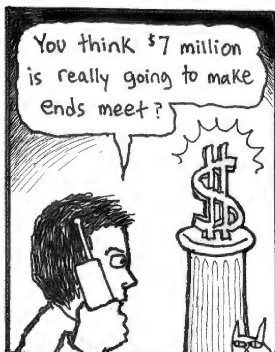
Salmon also displayed some scrambling ability, which he demonstrated on a big 28-yard run to set up a touchdown pass to Ford in the fourth quarter. The score was 24-22 prior to this final surge by the Bears.

Not to be outdone by the strong defence and consistent offence, special teams were also a big component of the victory. While UBC kept the ball away from the threat of Bears punt returner Kendall Jeske, fellow special-teamer David Bissett ran back the opening kick-off of the third quarter for a 98-yard score.

The Bears themselves didn't allow much in terms of kick or punt returns either, a definite improvement over the first two games of the season. Next up are three straight home contests, beginning with a crucial game against the visiting Manitoba Bisons (1-2) on Saturday, 7pm at Foote Field.

## BEHIND THE SCENES: THE MIKE COMRIE NEGOTIATIONS

ANOTHER WELL-DRAWN CARTOON  
BY MIKE WINTERS



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# Walking on FIRE in border towns...

## Adventure and AIDS education in South America

One in 14 people in Guyana are HIV positive. That's one person in a full elevator in the Tory Building, 27 people out of the 376 that were in my Psychology 105 class in my first year or, as I told the classes of high school students I taught this summer, it's one person on every mini-bus that hurtles down the roads of Georgetown, Guyana's capital city. And that's too many people.

Words: *Kenny Precht*  
Pictures: *Adam Kaasa,*  
*Kenny Precht*  
*and Liana Suziano*



The Lethem SIHA team and AIDS educators, the Young Achievers

I lived in Guyana this summer, a small English speaking country in South America, in a small town called Lethem that rests, somewhat precariously, on the country's border with Brazil. I say precariously because diseases like HIV migrate with people, and border towns are asking for trouble. I also say precariously because while we were there, the owner of the one store in town that sold American chocolate (Halloween-sized Twix bars for \$1.60 Canadian) was kidnapped by off-duty police officers while in Brazil and found three weeks later in a field. Or at least, parts of him were found: a charred skull, a broken belt buckle, a ring....

### Arrival

I was working as a health educator with the Students' International Health Association (SIHA), a U of A student group, along with two other students, Liana Suziano and Adam Kaasa. HIV/AIDS was our main focus.

We arrived in Lethem in mid-May after six months of fundraising and preparations in Edmonton and a week of orientation and banking in Georgetown (there being no banks in Lethem) with the rest of our team. SIHA sends nine students to Guyana every summer, and this year we were divided between three equally remote communities. In Lethem, we were promptly thrown into doing high school presentations.

Our first Thursday in Lethem, Adam and I slept over at the house of Liana's host family and awoke at 3:30am to hitch a ride with REO and his colleagues to Annai, an even smaller town than Lethem. REO stands for Regional Executive Officer; it's a position comparable to that of deputy premier. But when he was first introduced simply as "this is REO", we all thought he was just a

politician with a creepily girly name.

The ride to Annai was very bumpy and very crowded. In addition to a gigantic barrel of gasoline, Liana, Adam and I were sharing the back of a miniature pick-up truck with one of my host sisters, Althea, who came along to visit her family in Annai. We arrived after several hours with bruises on our bums, backs and elbows as the Secondary School students sang their morning anthems. We were quickly and unceremoniously abandoned by REO, who was going on to the next town and would return around 4pm to pick us up.

No one in Annai was expecting us: there were no phones and our little trip had been planned so suddenly that there had been no way to warn anyone we were on our way. Nonetheless, we taught classes about HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and teen pregnancy all day, filling in the classes where teachers were absent. No permission slips, no criminal record checks, no one supervising us—it never would have happened in Canada.

When school ended, we hit a snag in our day plan. REO and company were stuck in the other town and what was supposed to be a day trip had turned into an overnighter. We didn't have any food with us and so, with practically no money in our pockets and no sunscreen on our faces, we set out across the open savannah in the hot, hot sun to the only restaurants around, a resort run by a European man of questionable character.

While we three ate our tough meat with the spoons and knives provided us, the resort's peculiar proprietor lounged in hammock and watched us, his rolling belly exposing itself from under his tee-shirt. We explained our predicament: stranded, foodless, with no beds to sleep in and he offered to "work something out" so we could stay at the resort (we had maybe \$10 Canadian on the three of us combined; rooms at his resort were \$98 American, per person, per night). But after watching the odd, odd chemistry between him and the two women who brought us our food, we were convinced that "working something out" would see Liana and I sold to be his third and fourth wives. So we opted to walk under the baking sun, back to the school.

Thankfully, Althea's mother found beds for us all at the school's hostel, where she works as the caretaker. We slept until our ride appeared at







View of Lethem, Guyana



The steps to Moco Moco Falls



Students at St Ignatius Primary School

6am (we'd been told they'd be by sometime in the afternoon) and when we awoke, Althea's mother had already made us breakfast for the road.

The ride home was just as uncomfortable as the ride there, and this time, we were rained on. But I felt content because finally, after months of bingos and bake sales and training sessions at HIV Edmonton and meetings in the Education building (and let's not forget raising the \$2500 I needed to come), our adventure had begun. And besides, our slightly shocking introduction to teaching and transportation only prepared us for our return to Lethem, where we were to begin teaching at St Ignatius Secondary School.

## School Days

We had been asked to teach Life Skills classes (similar to CALM20 in Alberta schools) at St Ignatius by an American PeaceCorp volunteer named Mr Dean. We, three uncertified teachers, taught about subjects like HIV/AIDS, STIs and teenage pregnancy, five times a week until school let out for exams, two weeks before our ten week project ended—perfect timing.

We worked with the blessing of RC (which stands for Regional Chairman, a position similar to being premier, like RED, RC is used as his name). In the first words he spoke to us, he said he was disappointed that we were only around for ten weeks because there was so much work to be done.

RC confirmed what we had been told during orientation: denial and/or ignorance of HIV is one of Guyana's greatest obstacles. The World Health Organization estimates that, in Georgetown, there are 22,000 to 38,000 HIV positive Guyanese, and further that only 20 percent are aware of their status.

In communities like Lethem, HIV isn't the only consequence of unsafe sex that is causing problems. Approximately one in five girls get pregnant as teenagers in the hinterlands, which is where Lethem is. In one of the grade ten classes we took over, Mr Dean asked where three girls had disappeared to since the school had reopened after a month long teachers' strike. Two of the three girls were pregnant.

Teenage pregnancy and exposure to disease is further complicated for females by the fact

that women are often voiceless or significantly subordinated in Guyanese society, unable, for example, to ask their partners to use condoms even when they recognize how important it is. I have such hopes that future SHA groups in Lethem will be able to work with some of the women's groups we discovered in the area.

## Adventure

Teaching at school wasn't all depressing; we gave them egg babies (it was a very Degross Junior High assignment and so much fun) to take care of for a week (I had two children named after me). We'd see our students all over town, and they'd flash their babies at us, saying "See, Miss, I still have my baby." Adam and I even ran into a boy at the disco with his egg baby. He lived in the St Ignatius boarding house and was technically forbidden to be off the school grounds at any time, especially at 2am on Saturday morning. But at least his baby was safe.

Walking to school was also an adventure some mornings: Liana and I, cutting through the bush, were nearly eaten by a pig (or so my host sister Althea is convinced). The pig was grazing or wallowing or whatever sows do in puddles, with her six little piglets when we came upon them. Liana suggested that we shouldn't bother them but I said, "what's a pig going to do?" and started marching towards it. All the babies started shrieking in their little piggy shrieking voices and they fled while their mama howled towards us, grunting violently.

We screamed and ran, and I said, "well, she can't be on the other side of the bush yet," and started to walk around the other side of the bush. Unfortunately, she came tramping through the middle of the bush yet again, snorting with violence in her heart. We had to run away again, yelling and laughing. And we had to take the long way around to get to school, which made us late. Sigh. Thwarted by pig.

Besides our work at the school house, we worked a lot with a group of teenagers called the Young Achievers, a club that traveled around their region performing HIV education presentations.

The Young Achievers took us to Moco Moco Falls for Liana's 20th birthday in a Land Rover which we later learned had no brakes. Moco Moco Falls are

huge and the kind of place that in Canada would be safely behind chain link fences and covered with danger signs. But here, such waterfalls are for playing in. To get to them, we had to climb up over 900 slippery, uneven steps. It was not easy (I was the sad slowpoke). But when we found ourselves walking through a beautiful rain forest jungle filled with all the tropical plants we sell in four-inch pots at the flower store, heliconia, six-inch millipedes and even monkeys (although only Liana saw them, which made me wildly jealous), I was able to disregard my cramping body to bask in the falls' beauty.

The falls were fast and cool and beautiful. Adam, Liana and I climbed cautiously in them. The kids we were with had no such inhibitions, but fortunately, their agility kept them from disaster.

They built a little fire and cooked some beef. There was a shocking-blue butterfly that flitted and floated all around us and as corny as it sounds, it was breathtaking.

But our biggest event was St John's Night, the moment that everything built towards and descended from. It began as a Catholic holiday but these days St John's Night is not as much a

religious event as it is a night to engage in drunken revelry and the particularly dangerous business of walking on fire, and with an intent to disclose personal information, no less. Legend has it that if you can cross the white-hot coals with a member of the opposite sex without burning your feet, your virginity is intact.

I don't even like sitting close to campfires; the heat is too much and it hurts to be burnt. I was never even tempted to try crossing the coals. Liana and Adam, however, harboured no such fears.

Both spent the remainder of the night icing their blistered, bubbling feet and defending themselves against the hoards that accused them of not having enough faith. If they'd just had a bit more faith, they wouldn't have burnt themselves. Honest.

Liana and Adam didn't have it half as bad though, as the gaggle of young men who had already drunk so much alcohol that they spent the wee hours of the morning crawling across the coals on their hands and knees, numb to the damage they were doing.

*Continued next page*



St Ignatius students with their "egg babies"

The ride to Annai was very bumpy and very crowded. In addition to a gigantic barrel of gasoline, Liana, Adam and I were sharing the back of a miniature pick-up truck with one of my host sisters, Althea, who came along to visit her family in Annai. We arrived after several hours with bruises on our bums, backs and elbows as the Secondary School students sang their morning anthems.

But St John's Night isn't just for the young and (possibly) foolish, it's for the whole community—the Young Achievers, the kids we taught at the high school and their little brothers and sisters, all the parents and businessmen and house-cleaners and the ladies who sold sandwiches under the mango tree in the middle of town. Everyone was there.

Before the fire walking, while a huge bonfire dwindled to the pile of coals and Liana and I worked the bar, Adam and the Young Achievers put on a show. The show began horribly and it seemed destined to flop and result in utter humiliation for us all. Looking like they had just been drugged and were about to fall right off the stage into a puddle of nothing, the Young Achievers and Adam opened the show singing the most tuneless, pitiful, painful version of "Lean on Me" I have ever heard.

Six men took seats in front of Liana and I to watch the show and heckle; if they didn't like the song being sung or the punchlines in the play, they would rowdily remind the performers of the fire outside, threatening to toss them in. "Lean on Me" kicked off the night with repeated fiery threats. But then things got better and better and all of sudden, everyone was laughing hilariously at the skits. An air band playing "Silent Night" jokes about having the shits! I thought it was the kind of stuff that ceased being funny after grade-seven graduation, but everyone was laughing.

Adam wrote a play for the show; he called it "Silence Kills." Acted by the Young Achievers and narrated by Adam, the play told the story of four average people, infected with HIV, and suggested that talking about the risks and

the consequences of unprotected sex or drug use was an important thing to do. One of the first things we were told during orientation in Georgetown was that denial is a huge part of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Guyana. The whole audience was silent during the play; the men stopped heckling, the women in the benches stopped whispering, everyone listened. It was chilling and profound and maybe, hopefully, a moment where denial was abandoned to thoughtful consideration.

St John's Night was the big night for many reasons. It isn't often that you get the chance to walk on fire, for one. And it was the moment that we got to say to the most people what we had come to say about HIV. The play was successful, not so much because of the efforts of a group of Canadian university students, but because of the locals: our audience and our partners from a Guyanese HIV group. As much as we as visitors can help, it's the Guyanese we spent time with who are left to the dirty work and to deal with HIV every single day.

During the ten weeks I lived and worked in Lethem, one in fourteen people in Guyana were HIV positive. Now, having returned to Edmonton, that statistic remains the same. AIDS remains a problem, as tangible and undeniable to me as my memories of Guyana.

To risk sounding cliché, my time working with SIHA in Lethem has been an experience that has irrevocably altered my life. But I hope that my time there has affected someone else's life in a much more profound way, by encouraging them to be safe from HIV.



The site of the "pig incident": walking to St Ignace School

## #facts about SIHA

The Students' International Health Association (SIHA) was formed in 1989 as a club for medical students at the U of A.

SIHA has been sending U of A students to Guyana ever since, and in 1994, a project was started in Tanzania.

The Tanzania project (its focus is malaria education) takes six students to the coastal town of Bagamoyo. Bagamoyo is where slave trade was concentrated in Tanzania back in the day and there are all sorts of beautifully haunting ruins from those days. The students live together in a guest house and teach at schools and work with local NCOs and the like.

The Guyana project focuses on HIV/AIDS but addresses a whole range of health issues: breastfeeding, nutrition, basic hygiene (with elementary and nursery school students), breast cancer, hypertension and other issues of community interest. Presently, the project takes nine students, who are divided into three teams of three. Last year's team executed three pilot projects in remote areas that are not being reached by the government's HIV strategy. Lethem, Mahabua and Kakabakui. Mahabua is in the interior, in the rainforest, and it is a mining town with no telephones and a large Amerindian community. Kakabakui is along the Pomeroon river and in addition to having no telephones, there is no electricity and no roads: all transportation is by boat and canoe on the river. Students in Guyana live with host families.

In addition to the international projects, SIHA runs a local project component in Edmonton and works with HIV Edmonton. Local projects focus on HIV and Hepatitis C. This year a program is in development for ten peer educators to go out into local junior high and high schools to teach about sexual health. Timely, as the *Journal* reported last week that 52 per cent of Alberta's grade nine students think AIDS can be cured if caught in its early stages (HIV and AIDS cannot be cured).

Though it started as a medical student's club, SIHA invites students from all faculties to participate: last year's teams included students from Arts, Nursing, Science, Medicine, and Education.

All funds raised by SIHA participants are matched by the Wild Rose Foundation.

SIHA is currently recruiting for all three of its projects: the application deadline is 1 October. Information can be gained by contacting [siha@ualberta.ca](mailto:siha@ualberta.ca), phoning 492-9950, visiting its office at SUB 0-40B, or by attending an information session (16 and 18 September at 4:30pm in CAB 281).

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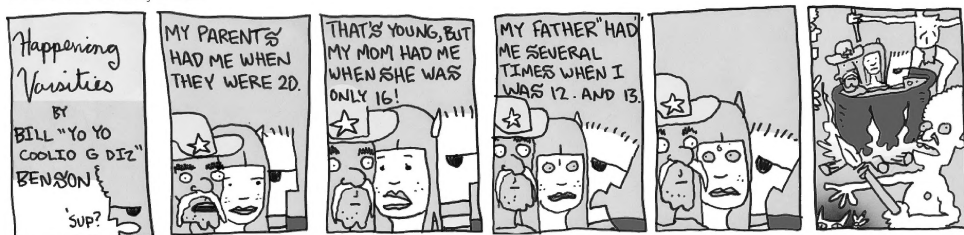
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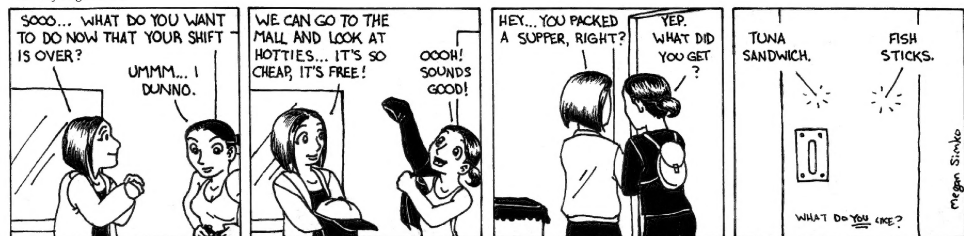
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## THREE LINES FOR A TOONIE

Lost something at the sleeping bag drive-in in Quad, 6 September? Come to 2-900 SUB to retrieve by September 30th or we lose it.

I can say that I love Babylon 5 because no one knows who I am, BWAHAHAHAHA!

Tazzy, meet me in our place tomorrow.

We have deployed a makeshift dartboard. We have high hopes that this will generate sufficient power to keep us alive. D.R. 47-47-30 Captain Tracey thought he had discovered the fountain of youth. In fact, the population of Omega IV had simply evolved longer lifespans as a consequence of their adaptation to long-term exposure to deadly toxins in their atmosphere, toxicity which came about during the war between the "Yangs" and the "Comms". PPS: My mom thinks I'm cool.

-biz

Biz, biz, biz. Your incoherent ramblings are worthy of a hiking boot to the side of the head. All the same, do you remember the TNG episode where the Enterprise happened upon the Dyson Sphere, and they discovered that Scotty got drunk and ended up playing hide-and-seek inside the transporter's pattern buffer? That was awesome...manjazo

You don't mess'n actually think you're cool. Sorry...productize

Yes she does! She told me when we went for tea today. -biz

Hey, hey! We're the monkeys!

Boing! Boing! Boing! Boing! Boing! Boing!

Prose rocks my world. SUCKKA

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Careers Day 2003. Careers Day is the largest career fair of the year and welcomes students/alumni of all faculties and disciplines. This is a great place to find out about your opportunities after University.

The fair will be taking place Wednesday, 24 September in the Butterdome. For more information call CaPS at 492-4291.

## U of A Women in Science and Engineering presents their annual Open House.

UA-WISE is a group dedicated to women in nontraditional careers. The Open House is a great place to meet with professors and women in the industry, and find out about upcoming UA-WISE events.

Some of those events include a job search seminar, a health sciences forum, a grade studies mixer, tours, group sports and more. Dinner is provided at the Open House and everyone is welcome.

Come by Wednesday, 24 September between 5pm and 7pm. For more

information please feel free to email: stefanie.lee@ualberta.ca.

## Career and Placement Services also

presents the Health Sciences Fair 2003. Over 40 health care organizations and authorities come to recruit U of A students and alumni. Health Sciences 2003 takes place on Saturday, 27 September in Education Gym South. For more information call CaPS at 492-4291.

HBK is a service provided for Registered Student Groups and University Departments only. HBK is only printed in the Tuesday editions of the Gateway each week. HBK does not publish events that are weekly, on-going, or not open to the public. Incomplete forms will not be submitted. Submissions will print for one issue only. Entry deadline is 3pm Fridays (submit your entry on the Friday before the issue you wish it to appear in).

Submit to the Gateway Offices (3-04, third floor SUB) or fax to 492-4665. If you want to highlight your event in a more noticeable way, or if your event doesn't fall inside the restrictions of Happy Bob Knows you can call the Gateway advertising department to book an advertisement. Just call Patrick Crook at 492-6700. You still reading the explanation text? Wow! What's with you? Don't you have anything better to do than to read about what Happy Bob Knows is?

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